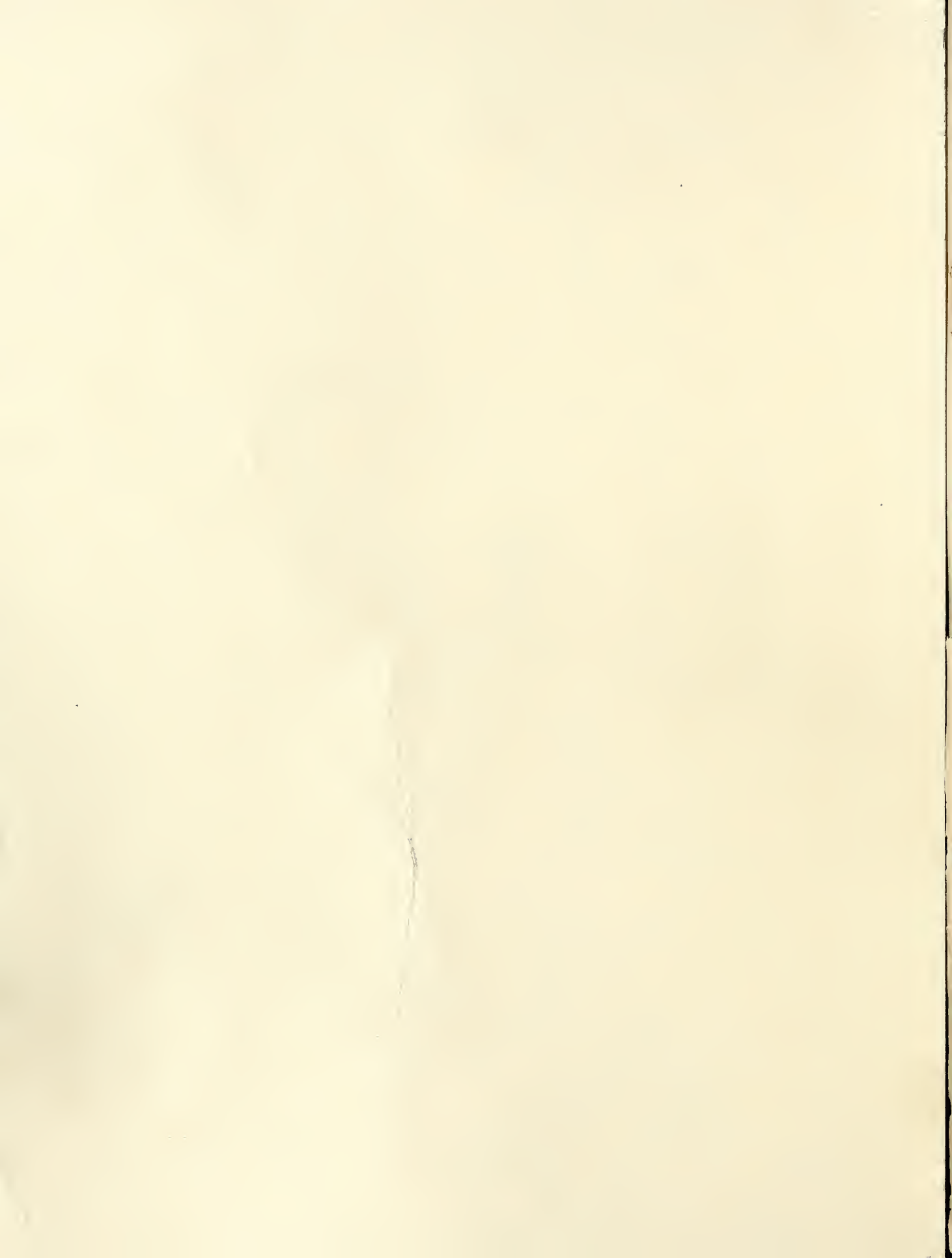


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

WORLD CARPET WOOL PROSPECTS

June 1930

The domestic carpet wool situation in recent months has been characterized by a slow market, reduced stocks, declining imports and consumption and decreased machinery activity which is in line with the general wool situation in the United States during this period. Prices at Boston remained steady from February through April but declined from 1 to 5 cents per pound in May and were from 2 to 9 cents a pound lower than a year ago. Stocks of carpet wool, tops and noils held by dealers and manufacturers in the United States the first of April were 5.7 million pounds below those of January 1 and 1.8 million pounds below those of April 1, 1929. Imports of carpet wool for the first four months of 1930 were about 24 million pounds lower than those of the first four months of last year. Consumption of carpet wool in the United States from January 1 to April 30, 1930 was 14.3 million pounds below the consumption of the same months of 1929. Carpet and rug looms report a lower machinery activity during the early months of 1930 than at any period since 1921.

Stocks of wool in Tientsin, China, the beginning of June were fairly large. Business at that time was slow and no interest was shown in any but Sining wools. Sining wool in the grease to yield 60 per cent was being offered at 15 cents per pound c.i.f. Atlantic ports. A fair business is expected in June and prices will probably be lower.

The quantity of wool cataloged at the April East India Wool Sales was considerably below the amount generally cataloged. An excellent

clearance was effected, however, and sales amounted to 86.5 per cent of the amount offered. The United Kingdom was the chief purchase, taking 9,156,000 pounds. Competition was good but prices in many cases were below those of the previous auction.

Prices decline at Boston

Prices of carpet wools declined at Boston during May after having remained steady for the three preceding months and average prices for the month were from 2 to 9 cents per pound below those of May 1929. The May averages for 1930 were below the May averages of the past five years for all varieties with the exception of Angora and Scotch blackface. Average prices for the first five months of 1930 were lower than those of 1929 for all varieties. Philadelphia is now experiencing the annual dull spring market for carpet lines and not much business is expected until well along in the summer.

The following Table shows the average price of various carpet wools for May 1924-1928 and monthly averages for 1929-1930.

Carpet wools: Average price per pound at Boston, 1924-1930

Year and month	Aleppo washed	Angora	China No. 1 Sining	Mon- golian Unga washed	Awassi- Karadi washed	Scotch black- face	Vican- ere scour- ed 1/	Jorias scour- ed 1/
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
May 1924.....	32	18	24	23	27	29	---	72
1925.....	41	24	30	30	39	40	30	72
1926.....	33	18	25	24	32	32	21	66
1927.....	38	24	30	31	36	39	24	68
1928.....	2/35	22	26	25	36	2/35	26	64
1929								
Jan.	36	24	28	27	36	36	26	66
Feb.	37	25	28	27	36	36	27	65
Mar.	38	26	28	27	36	38	27	62
Apr.	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	60
May	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	60
June	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	60
July	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	60
Aug.	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	60
Sept.	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	60
Oct.	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	60
Nov.	38	26	28	26	36	38	26	60
Dec.	37	25	26	25	35	36	25	60
1930								
Jan.	35	24	24	23	33	35	25	59
Feb.	34	22	22	22	30	34	24	58
Mar.	34	22	---	22	30	34	24	58
Apr.	34	22	---	22	30	34	24	58
May	30	22	---	20	30	29	24	57

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from weekly quotations in the Boston Commercial Bulletin. 1/ Beginning March 1929 quotations are "dirt" instead of "scoured". 2/ 80 per cent yield.

Carpet wool imports below last year

Imports of carpet wool into the United States for the first four months of 1930 were only 42 million pounds compared with 66 million pounds imported from January 1 to April 30, 1929, a decrease of 36 per cent. Monthly imports declined from 15.7 million pounds in December 1929 to 6.9 million pounds in April 1930. Receipts from all the principal sources of supply shared in the decline.

China continues to be the most important source of United States carpet wool imports but imports from this country were surpassed by those from Argentina during February and March of the present year. The following Table shows imports of carpet wool into the United States by principal countries, 1922-1930.

Carpet wools: Imports into the United States, by countries

Year	China	United Kingdom	India	Syria-Palestine	Argentina	France	Italy	All others	Total
	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
1922	61,533	65,651	2,923	2,495	10,320	5,942	6,577	17,594	173,035
1923	51,449	33,488	4,120	3,131	9,122	4,139	3,638	13,312	122,399
1924	65,698	39,179	3,458	5,912	7,356	3,061	2,853	13,443	140,960
1925	63,761	46,573	8,330	7,219	7,003	3,620	3,374	18,091	157,971
1926	22,871	46,768	5,505	6,831	8,337	3,991	4,553	16,665	115,521
1927	48,275	39,062	9,294	8,478	10,000	5,013	3,495	20,639	144,256
1928	54,206	33,023	12,013	10,000	9,177	5,505	4,071	21,331	149,326
1929	52,716	31,444	14,695	11,479	24,111	5,117	3,663	31,782	175,007
Jan.	5,647	2,170	724	567	2,579	190	202	2,690	14,769
Feb.	6,984	2,146	1,796	485	3,444	519	268	1,803	17,445
Mar.	6,374	3,463	350	319	4,602	397	308	2,392	18,205
Apr.	5,374	2,567	1,961	607	3,060	511	224	1,508	15,812
May	3,646	2,776	1,291	258	1,208	189	297	1,542	11,207
June	4,580	1,591	1,871	258	1,205	149	316	999	10,969
July	4,639	1,142	2,328	2,120	1,832	485	416	2,034	14,997
Aug.	3,033	3,476	1,283	1,040	1,386	649	250	2,089	13,206
Sept.	2,822	2,737	1,289	1,462	621	726	403	4,855	14,915
Oct.	2,061	4,394	315	930	953	461	395	4,106	13,615
Nov.	2,379	3,639	1,170	1,881	819	277	342	3,622	14,129
Dec.	5,177	1,343	317	1,552	2,402	563	242	4,142	15,738
1930									
Jan.	6,212	821	1,681	877	2,939	477	218	2,367	15,612
Feb.	2,510	1,540	556	190	4,001	127	67	1,739	10,730
Mar.	2,853	900	918	222	3,181	49	66	381	8,570
Apr.	1,965	1,534	374	62	1,931	201	128	685	6,880

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Stocks reduced in the United States

Stocks of carpet wools, tops and noils in the United States or afloat to the United States, held by dealers and manufacturers on April 1, 1930 amounted to 51 million pounds compared with 57 million pounds held on January 1, 1930. Stocks on April 1 were distributed as follows: combing wools 20,240,833 pounds, filling wools 29,043,670 pounds tops 898,331 pounds and noils 283,080 pounds. This includes stocks held in bonded warehouses and 2,931,072 pounds of wool afloat to the United States. The stocks on April 1, 1930 were 2 million pounds lower than at the same time last year when they amounted to 53 million pounds but were 2 million pounds above the April 1 average of 49 million pounds for the five years 1925-1929.

Stocks of carpet wool in the grease on April 1, 1930 were about 46 million pounds compared with 52 million pounds on January 1, 1930 and 48 million pounds on April 1, 1929.

Stocks of carpet wool tops and noils held by dealers and manufacturers in the United States

Date	Grease	Scoured	Pulled	Tops and noils
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1928 -				
Jan. 1	39,965	1,513	1,681	1,386
Apr. 1	36,997	2,651	1,778	1,437
July 1	44,681	3,295	1,512	1,726
Oct. 1	43,251	2,024	983	1,809
1929 -				
Jan. 1	41,871	1,544	1,391	1,368
Apr. 1	48,476	1,363	1,868	1,233
July 1	44,101	1,832	1,828	1,427
Oct. 1	47,969	2,509	3,108	1,091
1930 -				
Jan. 1	51,887	2,414	1,485	1,091
Apr. 1	46,282	1,894	1,808	1,181

Compiled from the Wool Stock Report issued jointly by the United States Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Commerce.

Wool machinery activity low

The activity of carpet and rug looms in the United States during March and April 1930 expressed as a percentage of the maximum single shift capacity was only 48 per cent, the lowest percentage reported in this industry since July 1921 when the activity was 42 per cent of the maximum single shift capacity. The activity in April 1929 was 70 per cent of the maximum single shift capacity and the five year average for April 1925-1929 was 69 per cent.

The number of carpet and rug looms reported for April, 1930 was 9,616 of which 5,383 or 56 per cent were in operation for some part of the month and 4,233 were idle throughout the month.

The following Table shows the monthly activity of carpet and rug looms expressed as a percentage of the maximum single shift capacity for the years 1921-1930.

Carpet and rug looms: Activity expressed as percentage of maximum single-shift capacity in the United States, by months, 1921-1930

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Per:	Per:	Per:	Per:	Per:	Per:	Per:	Per:	Per:	Per:	Per:	Per:
	cent:	cent:	cent:	cent:	cent:	cent:	cent:	cent:	cent:	cent:	cent:	cent:
1921	37	36	36	38	44	47	42	57	66	70	73	70
1922	76	77	78	75	76	72	70	77	81	74	84	83
1923	86	82	87	83	86	85	74	80	81	84	85	71
1924	75	76	73	64	54	49	52	57	65	72	78	76
1925	78	81	86	76	73	70	65	68	65	64	69	67
1926	68	70	70	63	57	58	55	60	62	65	67	65
1927	65	64	66	67	67	64	56	57	65	64	67	68
1928	68	67	68	71	65	62	55	63	62	67	68	62
1929	65	67	69	70	72	69	61	66	66	71	65	55
1930	51	51	48	48								

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Consumption of carpet wool below last year

The consumption of carpet wool in the United States for the first four months of 1930 amounted to 38,572,000 pounds compared with 52,846,000 pounds consumed from January 1 to April 30, 1929. Consumption for each month of the present year has been below the consumption during the corresponding month of 1929 and both combing and filling wools have shared in the decline.

The consumption in April 1930 was 9,589,000 pounds consisting of 2,275,000 pounds of combing and 6,357,000 pounds of filling wool in the grease with 221,000 pounds of scoured wool and 736,000 pounds of pulled wool. This is an increase over the consumption of March 1930 which was 8,999,000 pounds but is 3,293,000 pounds below the consumption in April 1929.

Carpet wool: Consumption in the United States, 1918-1930

Year	Grease			Scoured	Pulled
	Combing	Filling	Total		
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
1918	16,414	15,703	32,117	3,954	1,456
1919	24,672	28,747	53,419	5,686	2,545
1920	28,356	28,364	56,720	7,002	2,919
1921	22,968	27,291	50,259	4,777	3,829
1922	58,797	51,664	110,461	6,695	5,679
1923	72,231	63,215	135,446	5,924	8,293
1924	54,042	60,047	114,089	3,655	5,759
1925	56,848	62,037	118,885	3,934	8,991
1926	45,605	56,205	101,810	4,303	12,915
1927	44,755	70,516	115,271	4,894	8,753
1928	43,677	77,760	121,437	6,081	8,308
1929					
Jan.	4,515	8,461	12,976	259	900
Feb.	3,789	8,525	12,314	261	764
Mar.	3,345	7,868	11,213	287	990
Apr.	3,436	8,249	11,685	286	911
May	4,329	8,962	13,291	313	630
June	2,969	7,753	10,722	320	558
July	3,431	8,275	11,706	170	650
Aug.	3,777	8,756	12,533	243	725
Sept.	3,359	8,272	11,631	333	747
Oct.	4,409	10,113	14,522	397	1,126
Nov.	4,099	8,197	12,296	363	899
Dec.	3,360	4,979	8,339	337	404
1930					
Jan.	3,401	6,927	10,328	271	599
Feb.	2,169	5,878	8,047	288	451
Mar.	2,306	5,812	8,118	286	595
Apr.	2,275	6,357	8,632	221	736

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Chinese wools

Stocks of wool in Tientsin are fairly large and arrivals are satisfactory according to a cable of June 6 from Consul General Gauss. Carpet wool declared for export to the United States from Tientsin during May amounted to 1,181,575 pounds compared with only 125,522 pounds in April when prices asked were considered too high by American buyers. Exports during May were 814,221 pounds in the grease, 76,541 pounds washed and 290,813 pounds scoured. The exports in April were entirely of scoured wool.

The recent fall in the value of silver has ended the good sales which were made during May in spite of the rapid fall in prices in the United States with fair profits to dealers. Sining wool in the grease to yield 60 per cent is offered at about 15 cents c. i. f. Atlantic Coast Ports, but prices are expected to be lower in June. No interest is shown in wools other than

Sining wools and no prices are being quoted on other grades. With silver still falling, a fair business is expected in June.

East India wool auctions

The third series of the 1930 East India wool auctions was held from April 29 to May 2. Yellows again formed the bulk of the offerings. There was a fair supply of the better yellows but a large proportion of the offerings consisted of medium and coarse yellows, many parcels being in wasty condition. The catalogs included a good selection of Joria white and a moderate offering of Vicanere Kandahar and Bibruk whites. Grays were in limited supply but Blacks were fairly plentiful.

Good competition prevailed throughout the series for most descriptions, especially for clean carpet wools which were often 5 per cent dearer. Wasty and coarse wools were difficult to sell. Bussorah and Persian Gulf whites and fawns were neglected but the darker colors sold at about 5 per cent decline.

There was a good attendance of English and continental buyers and useful support from America. The following Table shows the classes of wool available at the 1928, 1929 and 1930 series of East India wool sales at Liverpool.

East India wool sales: Quantity available at Liverpool,
by classes, January 1928 - April 1930

Date	Whites <u>1/</u>	Yellows	Blacks and grays	All other	Goat hair	Total
	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales
<u>1928</u>						
Jan. 17-20.....	5,545	6,488	2,696	2,473	238	17,440
Mar. 5- 9.....	5,386	10,998	4,813	4,129	124	35,450
Apr. 23-27.....	6,567	12,186	5,397	2,816	484	27,450
June 12-19.....	9,681	8,819	6,194	5,829	477	31,000
July 23-27.....	9,356	4,659	4,426	4,524	455	23,420
Sept. 11-14.....	9,567	3,594	3,678	4,143	448	21,430
Oct. 23-26.....	8,961	4,118	4,166	4,352	503	22,100
Dec. 4- 7.....	5,676	6,718	2,947	2,762	467	18,550
<u>1929</u>						
Jan. 15-18.....	4,961	8,241	2,686	1,679	324	17,891
Mar. 4- 8.....	5,638	12,677	5,023	3,523	120	26,980
Apr. 22-26.....	6,173	10,136	5,492	3,190	59	25,050
June 4- 7.....	6,019	5,617	4,315	3,635	195	19,781
July 23-30.....	12,069	4,546	5,163	6,850	102	28,730
Sept. 9-13.....	9,928	3,435	4,855	4,177	55	22,450
Oct. 22-25.....	7,068	2,895	3,877	3,037	283	17,160
Dec. 2- 6.....	7,452	7,717	4,258	4,144	199	23,770
<u>1930</u>						
Jan. 13-17.....	7,433	12,444	2,986	2,333	74	25,270
Mar. 11-14.....	5,263	9,687	3,246	2,677	297	21,170
Apr. 29-May 2...	4,818	7,439	2,605	1,924	214	17,000

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Data from Liverpool Wool Brokers Association. 1/ Jorias, Vicaneres and Kandahars only. Does not include Rajpootana, Peshawar, Harnai, Bibruk, Josulmere, Beawar, Marwar, Madras, Bussorah and Karachi whites which are included in "all other".

Compared with the March auction rates, prices in April-May were 5 per cent lower for Joria white, 15 to 20 per cent lower for Vicanere superior whites, which were scarce, and 10 per cent lower for Vicanere superior pale yellow while for other selections, prices were firm at unchanged or slightly higher rates.

The following Table shows the prices received for Joria, Vicanere and Kandahar wools at the auctions held at Liverpool from January 1927 to May 1930.

East India wool sales: Average price per pound received in the Liverpool auctions, specified dates, 1927-1930

Date	Whites (superior)			Yellows (superior)		Gray
	Jorias	Vicanere	Kandahar	Vicanere	Kandahar	Jorias
1927	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Jan. 18	44 - 46	45 - 50	31 - 35	32 - 40	25 - 27	24 - 30
Mar. 7	44 - 47	47 - 53	33 - 37	35 - 38	25 - 27	24 - 30
Apr. 25	44 - 48	45 - 53	33 - 37	37 - 39	25 - 27	26 - 34
June 14	45 - 48	47 - 53	33 - 37	37 - 40	25 - 27	25 - 33
July 26	46 - 48	47 - 51	33 - 37	38 - 40	26 - 28	26 - 35
Sept. 12	46 - 49	47 - 51	31 - 36	38 - 41	26 - 28	26 - 32
Oct. 24	43 - 47	43 - 50	32 - 37	37 - 40	26 - 28	26 - 34
Dec. 5	41 - 45	39 - 46	31 - 33	35 - 37	26 - 28	26 - 32
1928						
Jan. 17	44 - 47	45 - 49	31 - 34	37 - 39	26 - 28	26 - 32
Mar. 5	48 - 52	45 - 51	33 - 35	39 - 43	26 - 28	28 - 35
Apr. 23	47 - 51	45 - 51	33 - 35	39 - 43	26 - 29	28 - 35
June 12	45 - 48	43 - 50	32 - 35	39 - 43	26 - 28	28 - 36
July 23	42 - 44	41 - 47	32 - 36	39 - 42	26 - 28	28 - 36
Sept. 11	41 - 43	41 - 45	32 - 36	39 - 44	26 - 28	28 - 35
Oct. 23	40 - 43	40 - 45	32 - 36	38 - 40	26 - 28	27 - 35
Dec. 4	41 - 44	43 - 47	33 - 36	38 - 40	27 - 29	29 - 37
1929						
Jan. 15	41 - 44	43 - 47	33 - 36	40 - 43	27 - 29	29 - 37
Mar. 4	41 - 44	44 - 49	33 - 36	40 - 43	27 - 29	29 - 35
Apr. 22	42 - 44	45 - 49	33 - 36	40 - 43	26 - 28	29 - 36
June 4	42 - 44	44 - 49	33 - 36	40 - 44	26 - 28	28 - 34
July 23	41 - 43	41 - 47	32 - 34	39 - 42	24 - 26	26 - 33
Sept. 9	41 - 43	45 - 46	32 - 34	40 - 42	25 - 27	26 - 33
Oct. 22	40 - 42	44 - 48	32 - 34	40 - 42	25 - 27	27 - 33
Dec. 2	37 - 38	41 - 45	29 - 30	36 - 38	23 - 25	25 - 32
1930						
Jan. 15	32 - 35	39 - 43	26 - 29	31 - 33	20 - 23	23 - 27
Mar. 11	30 - 33	41 - 44	22 - 25	27 - 29	17 - 20	20 - 24
Apr. 29	1/28 - 31	1/32 - 36	22 - 24	26 - 29	17 - 20	18 - 23

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Data from Liverpool Wool Brokers Association.

1/ Exceptional lots.

The quantity of wool cataloged at the third series of the East India Wool Sales in April-May, 1930 amounted to 16,731,000 pounds which was the smallest quantity cataloged at any series since 1926. At the March sale 20,777,000 bales were cataloged while the five-year average 1925-1929 for the third series is 23,226,000 pounds. A high percentage of the wool cataloged was sold, however, and the sales which amounted to 14,466,000 pounds were above the sales of the first two series of 1930, but were below the five-year average of 18,763,000 pounds for the third series sales 1925-1929. The sales at this series represented 86.5 per cent of the total cataloged, compared with 63.1 per cent in March and 80.8 per cent for the average of the third series sales during the years 1925 to 1929.

All countries reported made larger purchases at the third series of 1930 than at the second. The United Kingdom took 9,156,000 pounds, the United States 2,910,000 pounds and the Continent 2,400,000 pounds.

East India wool sales: Quantity of wool cataloged and sold
at Liverpool, by countries, 1919-1930

Year	:	Wool cataloged	:	Wool sold to			Total			
				United	United	The				
				States	Kingdom	Continent				
		Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales				
1919	:	215,769	:	22,500	:	152,002	:	21,398	:	195,900
1920	:	193,700	:	7,107	:	118,907	:	14,537	:	140,551
1921	:	120,397	:	35,215	:	57,883	:	7,785	:	100,883
1922	:	180,082	:	98,111	:	57,822	:	19,543	:	175,476
1923	:	155,760	:	56,650	:	80,874	:	21,720	:	139,244
1924	:	194,297	:	52,195	:	91,472	:	28,525	:	172,192
1925	:	200,807	:	55,335	:	85,394	:	20,530	:	161,259
1926	:	155,066	:	44,735	:	64,989	:	17,465	:	127,189
1927	:	181,214	:	47,477	:	86,094	:	21,310	:	154,881
1928	:	186,960	:	50,218	:	80,633	:	27,185	:	158,036
1929	:		:		:		:		:	
Jan.	:	17,891	:	3,350	:	8,251	:	3,725	:	15,326
Mar.	:	26,931	:	8,230	:	12,315	:	4,275	:	24,820
Apr.	:	25,041	:	5,570	:	10,880	:	3,705	:	20,155
June	:	19,781	:	3,445	:	7,920	:	3,170	:	14,535
July	:	28,717	:	6,700	:	10,892	:	3,780	:	21,372
Sept.	:	22,315	:	8,000	:	7,488	:	3,370	:	18,858
Oct.	:	17,160	:	5,300	:	6,018	:	2,110	:	13,428
Dec.	:	23,752	:	727	:	11,532	:	2,820	:	15,079
1930	:		:		:		:		:	
Jan.	:	24,970	:	1,460	:	10,232	:	2,340	:	14,032
Mar.	:	20,777	:	2,520	:	8,341	:	2,250	:	13,111
Apr.	:	16,731	:	2,910	:	9,156	:	2,400	:	14,466

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Data from Liverpool Wool Brokers Association.

